

How do I create a proximity search?

Proximity searching is a way to search for two or more words that occur within a certain number of words from each other. The proximity operators are composed of a letter (N or W) and a number (to specify the number of words). The number cannot exceed 255.

The proximity operator is placed between the words that are to be searched, as follows:

- Near Operator (N): **N5** finds the words if they are a maximum of five words apart from one another, regardless of the order in which they appear. For example, type **tax N5 reform** to find results that have a maximum of five words between the beginning and ending terms, that would match **tax reform** as well as **tax that has been submitted for reform**.
- Within Operator (W): **W8** finds the words if they are within eight words of one another, in the order in which you entered them. For example, type **tax W8 reform** to find results that would match **tax reform** but would not match **reform of income tax**.

In addition, multiple terms can be used on either side of the operator. See the following examples:

- **(tax OR tariff) N5 reform**
- **oil W3 (disaster OR clean-up OR contamination)**
- **(baseball OR football OR basketball) N5 (teams OR players)**

Note: Boolean operators (AND, OR, NOT) are not case sensitive.